

App. No. : 09/545,658
Filed : 4/10/2000

REMARKS

Applicant gratefully acknowledges the interview extended to its attorney, Jonathan Barney, on August 20, 2002. Based on that interview and the amended claims presented above, Applicant respectfully requests the Examiner to reexamine and reconsider this application, as amended. Claims 1-32 have been canceled without prejudice. New Claims 33-58 are presented to more clearly and definitely claim the subject matter which Applicant regards as the invention. Amended. Each of the Examiner's objections is addressed below:

Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 112

The Examiner rejected Claims 9, 11, 13 and 22 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which Applicant regards as the invention. These claims have been cancelled, and the specific objections have been overcome in the newly presented claims.

Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 102(b)/ § 103(a)

The Examiner rejected Claims 1-4, 7-8, 15-26 and 29-32 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Tillery et al (5,114,155). The Examiner further rejected Claims 5-6, 9-14 and 27-28 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Tillery in view of magnetic cards and bar code stickers. These claims have been cancelled; however, Applicant would like to clarify Applicant's understanding of the Tillery reference as it relates to the claimed invention.

As discussed during the office interview, Tillery teaches a system for conducting competitive dart leagues or dart tournaments using remotely located electronic dart games connected via an electronic network. To this end, each dart game player in a tournament or league game is provided with a player card that identifies the player relative to a dart game and stores certain data and game statistics associated with the player. A central control device periodically polls each remote dart game and uploads and assimilates current statistical data. The control device then calculates the standings of each player and downloads updated player standings to each remote dart game wherein it is displayed.

Unlike, Tillery the interactive quest game of the present invention utilizes multiple play elements comprising one or more interactive games or challenges (Claim 33) that are

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conceptually, qualitatively or sensually distinct (Claim 42) and configured and arranged to be played or completed by said one or more play participants as part of an overall quest or mission. At least two of the interactive games or challenges are arranged or organized sequentially such that a first interactive game or challenge is necessary to be played or completed before a second game or challenge can be played or completed (Claim 33). A central links system tracks which interactive games or challenges have been played or completed by each play participant such that the progress of each play participant playing the interactive quest game may be determined. In Applicant's invention as defined by Claim 42 multiple play elements are interlinked by an electronic tracking system that defines a particular play sequence or path network along which play participants must proceed to complete the desired quest or mission. Thus, play activities, goals, points or game levels achieved in one play environment are affected by or part dependent on play activities, goals, points or game levels achieved in another play environment (Claim 52).

Tillery does not disclose or suggest these or other claimed features and advantages of Applicant's invention. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that Claims 33-58 are patentable over Tillery.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicant respectfully requests that this application, as amended, is in condition for allowance and such action is earnestly requested. If the Examiner has any questions or suggestions concerning the amended claims or this response she is respectfully urged to contact the undersigned at the number indicated below.

Respectfully submitted,
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